

REMARKS

Claims 40-78 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 67-69 are amended to depend from claim 40. No new matter is added.

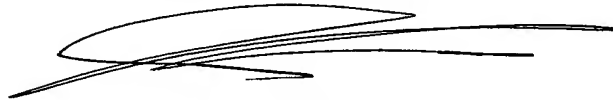
In reply to the December 28, 2006 Restriction Requirement, Application provisionally elects Group I, claims 40-63, with traverse. Applicant also respectfully requests that amended claims 67-69 be included as part of Group I.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Based on the above argument withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested, or, in the alternative, consideration of amended claims 67-69 as part of Group I is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Joshua C. Liu
Registration No. 55,391

JAO:JCL/dxc

Date: January 29, 2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
